Mechanical Memories Magazine

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The UK's only Vintage Coin-Op magazine – now in its forth year!

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello, and welcome to the first issue of the forth year of Mechanical Memories Magazine. Yes, the magazine really has been going now for three years, although there are times when it seems like a lifetime! This is one of those occasions, when having been open at Brighton for the two week Easter school holidays, I've had to bash this issue out in a matter of days. Many thanks to Stuart Dale, Jeremy Clapham and Robert Rowland, without whose contributions you probably wouldn't be reading this until May!

Unfortunately, there are considerably less of you reading this than there were last month's magazine, as at the time of writing over fifty subscriptions have not been renewed. I know some of those subscriptions will be renewed eventually, and fully understand how these things get forgotten, but the magazine has now become totally unviable (not that it ever was really viable). Over the past twelve months, I've 'lost' over a hundred subscribers, which has nowhere near been compensated by new subscriptions. Consequently, the subscriber base is falling.

I'm not going to fold the magazine or do a runner, but something has to change. If every month was like this one, where I haven't had to write articles, things wouldn't be too bad – after all, I never expected to make a fortune from this; I started the magazine because I do actually care about our hobby. But when, as I often do, I have to write the entire content of a particular issue, I end up working extremely long hours almost for nothing. That cannot continue, as I'm sure you'll all understand, I have to earn a living just like everyone else. So, if you've considered writing something for the magazine, or even started an article that was never finished, please give it some more consideration. After all this is YOUR magazine; I'm just the mug who produces it.

Now, onto some even worse news! I heard from a fellow collector very recently, who has been burgled. You've probably guessed what's coming next – he had almost his entire collection stolen, and is understandably gutted. I will go into more detail next month, but in the meantime I think we should all consider the consequences of having one or more machines stolen. For instance, would you be able to give the police or insurance company an accurate description of a machine? I have a large collection, in fact I don't even know how many machines I own, and yet I would not be able to accurately describe a single machine. Food for thought I think.

Sorry I haven't any good news

Till next time, all the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

Bonhams Sales

Bonhams Knightsbridge sale is coming up shortly, with a couple of lots that will be of interest, being a Rowe-AMI Continental jukebox and a Delong cowboy figure fitted with a Mills Hi-Top bandit. The first hundred lots in the sale consist of a wonderful collection of radios, which may also be of interest to some readers.

As I've stated previously, Laurence Fisher (the head of Bonhams mechanical music dept.) will be using the Knowle sales to offer the majority of slot machines that come to Bonhams. The forthcoming sale on 12th May has a number of allwins included, plus a Challenger. Among the allwins are: Whales 12 Win; Wonders Win and Place; Whales Win a Spangles; Brenner Ball Past the Arrow, plus several others. For online catalogue, go to www.bonhams.com/calender.

I hope to get to this sale, although it is rather a hike for me, but it's about time I had a day out! So I look forward to seeing a few familiar faces.

Vintage Slots on Primetime Telly!

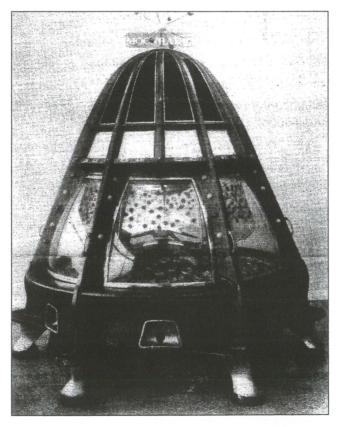
Did anyone see the Antiques Roadshow a few weeks ago? It's not often I get to see this programme, as I'm generally in Brighton on Sundays, so it's lucky I caught this edition. This particular week, the Roadshow was at Bridlington, and at the start of the show Chris Parcell's *Old Penny Memories* was featured, showing a good number of machines. At the time, I thought the program must have been recorded some time last year, as I was under the impression that Old Penny Memories was now closed. I spoke to Chris recently, and he confirmed that although he sold the freehold last year, the new owners wanted him to stay on for a while, so he expects to remain open, at least for this season.

I hope to feature Old Penny Memories in the magazine very soon (Chris has been threatening to write something for the last three years)! In the meantime, if you're in the East Yorkshire area, be sure to pay Chris a visit. The arcade is situated close to the seafront at 2 Marlborough Terrace, and is open weekends and school holidays throughout the season. For more info. go to www.oldpennymemories.co.uk

Returning to the Antiques Roadshow, the highlight of the show must have been Fiona Bruce's sweeping comment that "Bridlington was the home of the slot machine." She then delivered the incredible revelation that "More machines were produced in Bridlington than anywhere else in the UK." Why do these people talk such crap?

Moonraker Found!

A couple of weeks ago, following the Moonraker feature in the last issue, I heard from Paul Vickers who informed me that there is a Moonraker at Watermouth Castle, housed in its own shed – he describes it as 'a bloody big walk round thing!' (the machine, not the shed). Whilst speaking to Chris Parcell, he also confirmed this, stating that it is believed to be the last remaining machine. Chris also informed me that it is featured on Darren Hesketh's DVD 'The Old Tyme Penny Arcade and Vintage Fairground'. I lent my copy to someone a while back, so as soon as it is returned I'll look out for this most imposing machine. If you still do not have a copy of the DVD, don't' forget that they are now available from David Lavender (see page 27).



I've published this picture again, as last month it looked crap! Hopefully this time I will have made a better job of scanning it.



Dates for your diary

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 28th April Knightsbridge

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Collectables Sale 12th May Knowle, Nr Coventry

Great Dorset Steam Fair 2nd – 6th September Tarrant Hinton, Dorset

Bonhams Mechanical Music & Collectables Sale 29th September Knowle, Nr Coventry

Jukebox Madness 10th & 11th October Kempton Park Racecourse

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 10th November Knightsbridge

MMM Vintage Slot Collectors' Show & Auction 29th November Coventry (provisional)

Don't forget – if you know of any event which would be of interest to readers of the magazine, please let me know so that I can include details in these pages.

CARTERS FAMOUS ROYAL BERKSHIRE STEAM FAIR

Well, the season is well under way for Carters, and each month I shall be publishing their run of venues for the coming weeks. Unfortunately, I didn't have a chance to visit last year – it's a little difficult when I'm stuck in Brighton every weekend. However, I really must try to pay a visit this year, as I am very much looking forward to seeing (and riding) their latest attraction: the Lightning Skid, which started travelling with Carters last year. I'm not sure of it's origins, but it appears to be a Hayes Fabrications machine, rather than Lakins, and I think it may be the ex Tom Smith ride, which later passed to Gerry Cottle. Can anyone confirm?

The skid was one of my favourite rides in my younger days, but has sadly now all but vanished from our fairgrounds. Back in the sixties, no reasonably sized fair was complete without a skid, but I believe there are now no more than three or four still travelling – how times change (not generally for the better, in my view). Anyway, it's good to see that this once popular ride has been added to Carters line-up.

Carters' May Run

- 2nd 4th Hersham Green, Hersham, Surrey
- 9th 10th Pinkneys Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire
- 15th 16th Pedestal Field, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire
- 23rd 25th Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets, London E9

Search for that most Wanted Slot

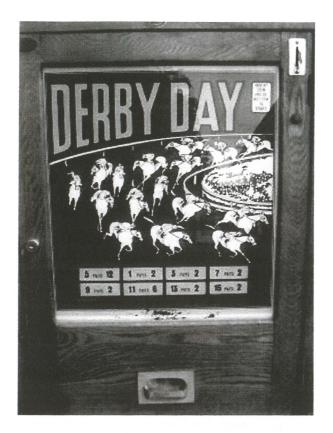
By Robert Rowland

Here is my story of some of the ups and downs in my search for a 1960s slot machine that supplied so many happy memories in my younger days. Every slottie maybe has one machine in mind that he would like to own, possibly a Jennings, maybe a Payramid, or what about a Conveyor? There are various reasons for wanting that particular machine: the rarity; the superb workmanship, or maybe simply because it was made by Bryans. My reason was memories, nothing so grand for me though, my desire was an electromechanical machine made in the 1960s called Derby Day. Insert penny, press button, horses numbered 1-15 flash, then one numbered horse remains lit, winning horses pay 2d, 6d or 12d.

We only had one Derby Day here in Mablethorpe in the 60s, so I don't think they were that popular. The great burning of slot machines on the beaches in 1971 (decimalization) probably saw off most of them. However, for some reason, ever since I dropped my first penny in that slot in 1966, and also proceeded to work out the system, I have always fancied owning one. For many years, I kept a lookout in various magazines and newspapers, and asked various faces if they had one (this was well before the days of computers and Ebay). I even visited the odd local auction houses, but sadly was never able to locate one. Eventually, I decided to abandon the idea.

Twenty-five years flew by, but then suddenly in the year 2005 the craving for some reason returned! As I slipped back into my childhood days, maybe it was a sort of escape from all the wrongs of today's modern world. I bought myself a computer, and discovered Ebay, and saw that old slot machines were appearing on the site from time to time. In saying that, they were not going cheap, but who can put a price on acquiring that desired old slot machine? A few months later I spotted a Kraft Jackpot allwin, listed as a 'buy it now'. I had played this also in the 1960s, and just could not resist, so I clicked the mouse button, and it was mine! So now I had to find a bundle of £20 notes, and arrange a courier to go to Cambridge to pick it up. That done, my courier set off, he rang me mid afternoon to say he was there, but he also said, "You won't believe this. You know that Derby Day you have been looking for, he has two here and he only wants £120 for them both."

My heart started to beat faster, but then he said that they were not working. The hope started to fade that second. Anyway, I arranged to have pictures emailed, and upon receiving them the reality was plain to see – both machines had been butchered!



Two weeks later they both appeared on Ebay as a buy it now, for £160 (price increased), of course, some unsuspecting punter snapped them up. The next news I heard was that two had turned up at one of Jerry's auctions. I was unable to attend that particular event, so guessed that both machines went to a new home. My next step was to try a full page ad. in that superb monthly, **Mechanical Memories Magazine** (no, Jerry hasn't paid me to say that)! Stating 'Must be in full working order'. Six months later, I had heard nothing. Hope was dwindling again, then one dark night a 'phone call out of the blue from a chap in Walsall, reckoned he saw my ad. in MMM, and he had two Derby Days. One was working, the other wasn't. "I want £250 for the two" he said.

About thirty minutes of chatting on the 'phone, asking various questions, like does it pay out correctly on all winning numbers, I decided to make the 160 mile round trip to Walsall to view and hopefully do a deal. So the following Sunday I set off with my courier friend, and we arrived at his home at about 9 am. The excitement was building as I entered his house, I saw them in the room, he opened them up. No1 No! They were the same two machines that I had initially refused from Cambridge! Gutted! My courier, who had seen them in Cambridge, also recognised them as being the same!

I felt really low. The chap himself was nice enough, despite not being too honest with his description. He did allow us to play on his own personal collection of old penny machines, which were located in a different room. After that, I politely said no thankyou and we set off for the long journey home.

About six months later an email arrived stating that Carters were holding an auction and there was a Derby Day included in the sale. Maybe another bit of hope there. I rushed onto the pennymachines website to check out the catalogue, and guess what? It was the front glass only! That sinking feeling was there again – talk about banging your head against a brick wall!

As time went on, nothing really happened in my quest to find my machine. Jerry was kind enough to advertise for a Derby Day in his free ads. Column each month in MMM. The world kept turning, I heard nothing and the postman kept bringing the bills. Also, my cash was running out, so I reluctantly decided that it was time to part company with my beloved Rotolite. So off it went onto Ebay to be sold, ten days later it was sold. The buyer arrived to claim his win, and upon exchanging cash and chat, he says, "I have a Derby Day." What? "I have a Derby Day, it's in full working order. I won't sell it, but I would swap it."

I have a fellow collector friend who has quite a few old penny machines, so I decided to ask him if he could possibly help me out. He was kind enough to say yes, and after a month of negotiating, refusing this and that, the chap accepted a Cadbury's chocolate allwin (which needed quite a bit of restoration) in exchange for the Derby Day. The day of the planned exchange, I couldn't sit still, I was up and down like a blue-arsed fly. I kept going to the window and looking out for a glimpse of his large saloon car. Eventually, at ten past seven at night, he was here. I had nothing to eat that day, as I was too excited, and also wound up. He carried it in, wow, it did look nice and appeared to be all there inside. I started to play it, little faults appeared, the uniselector was sticking and needed a sharp tap to complete its cycle. The payout tube seemed to jam on odd occasions, but this was probably my only chance of ever owning a Derby Day, so I shook hands and did the swap. Gotcha! The search was over.

Four months later, and I am happy. The uniselector has settled down and the payout system seems to have sorted itself out. Surprising what a bit of play can do, it's now 90% working order, and I am very pleased with it. No major problems to report, just little things which must be tolerated on any old slot machine nearly fifty years old.

Most people who have viewed my Derby Day are not that impressed (can't think why) and they wonder what all the fuss was about. It means the world to me, and here the search ends.

Robert Rowland

Restoration tips



By Stuart Dale

How to make a replacement display glass - Part Two

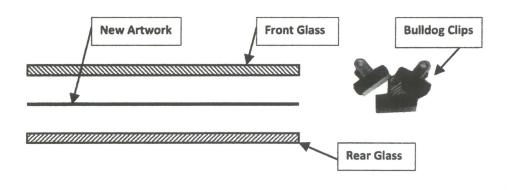
OK you have now mastered the art of MS Paint and you are happy with your finished image, You can now give yourself a well earned pat on the back, see I told you it wasn't that difficult. If your finished image is too big for your printer you will have to load it onto a disc or memory stick and take it to your local print shop to be Laser printed for you, I recommend you do this anyway as you will get a better print this way, and remember to take the measurements of the original glass with you so the printer can set up his machine for the correct print size, you will also need to think about how you want the finished image to be printed, if the finished glass is to be lit from behind the printing is best done on sticky crack-back vinyl as it will let the light through better than paper or card, if it is not to be lit from behind it could be printed on to thin card.

Once you have had the image printed and you are happy with it you will need to attach it to the new glass. I always use the following method, I find that this way the artwork is safe from damage once the new glass is finished.

You will need the ask your glass merchant to cut two sheets of glass to the finished size and thickness for your artwork/machine, to workout the finished thickness of the replacement display glass you should measure the thickness of the original and divide it in to two, for

example if your original glass is 6mm thick you ask for two pieces at 3mm each, if your original glass is 5mm thick you ask for one piece atzmm and one piece at 2mm and so on. it is a good idea to ask your glass merchant to make the edge's of the glass finger safe for you, or you can do this yourself by rubbing the edges with an oil-stone if you have one. New glass will have an oily film on it; this must be removed from all the surfaces using glass cleaner or mentholated spirit, Now we come to the assembly of all the parts, the idea is to make a sandwich with the glass and the artwork, if you are using crack-back vinyl this has to be carefully stuck to the front face of the rear glass, this operation must not be rushed as you only get one chance when sticking the vinyl to the glass, a good tip is to spray a mist of clean water on to the face of the glass before applying the vinyl and then carefully squeegee the water out from under the vinyl working from the centre out. The second front piece of glass is then laid over the top of the vinyl.

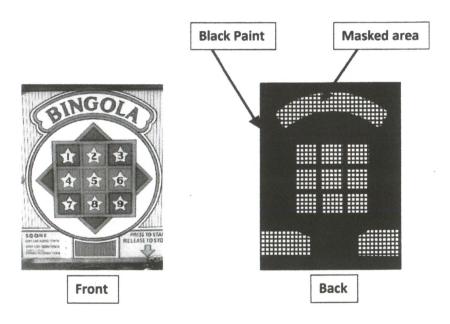
ASSEMBLY DIAGRAM.



Now that you have all three parts assembled and you are happy with them, you can seal all the way round the edges of the glass with a small amount of clear silicone, the whole assembly can be held together with bulldog type clips until the silicone is dry.

If the display glass is only to be back lit in some areas and not others you will have to turn the display glass face down and mask out the areas you want back lit, you should use "low tack" masking tape for this, Once the masking is complete and you are happy with it the rear of the display glass should be sprayed with two or three coats of black acrylic paint, once the paint has dried the masking tape can be carefully removed to reveal the back lit areas.

MASKING DIAGRAM



I hope you have enjoyed this article and will find it of use. And remember above all Have Fun!

HEALTH & SAFETY

Please take care when working with Glass and Spray Paints, and always wear the correct personal equipment for your own safety

Deals I Have Done

By Jeremy Clapham

I started buying machines about 1990; the only outlets were Exchange & Mart and the local papers and free advert rags. By putting in my own wanted adverts I quickly found the other few collectors within a 50 mile radius as we started answering each other's. In due course (I don't remember how) I became aware of The Deal Directory and subsequent AAM and that opened my horizons even more.

About this time I found a Sega Bonanza Star in Long Eaton (about 5 miles away) it was in a terrible state, all of its payouts were all to cock and I paid about £35 for it. I painted it a nice shade of blue with a cream belly stripe. The payout fingers for some odd reason were in the wrong slots, so with trial and error I finally got it working. I sold that on for £185 and was quite happy.



Answering an advert in AdMag I drove to Evesham one wet and windy night to view a small pusher and a couple of 60's English electro-mech machines. I was greeted by a middle-aged couple who took me out to a lock up garage where the slots were. I made an offer and we went into the house, as they wanted to write me a receipt (first and only time I've ever been given one). They used a beautiful 1950's Wurlitzer to lean on, but I didn't notice as I was scooping my tongue up due to gazing adoringly at the Rol a Top and brace of Governors that adorned their sideboard. I did a mental check on the state of my bank balance and decided to strike immediately....

"Wha Errr ... is they a Ummmm do you should?" I confidently enquired. They didn't need asking twice. "No they're not for sale, only the ones advertised, those are machines our son bought for investment."

I asked when their son would be home and immediately regretted my greed. It transpired he'd recently been killed in a motorcycle accident and they were disposing of the projects he never got round to finishing. I loaded the wall machines and arranged to come back at the weekend for the pusher.



When I got home there was a message from a fellow collector, did I want to buy a Sega bandit he'd just got in a bulk deal. He wanted to move it on as it needed work and bandits weren't his forte, it looked smart and it was mine for £85. At his house the next night, he told me the payouts were all to cock, and sure enough, there I was looking at the same Bonanza Star I'd sold a fortnight previously 40 miles away as the crow fights the driving sleet. Sure enough the payouts were all wrong again, to my astonishment the vertical payout fingers had been rearranged once more...how? ...why? I explained it was a big job (if not a puzzling one) and got it back for £60, at least it was painted this time. An hour after getting it home I'd rearranged things and it was sweet again, this time it went to a new home in Nottingham for £200.

Getting back to Evesham to collect the pusher I spent some time with the couple (they still wouldn't sell me any of the gems) and they told me the story about the Wurlitzer. Seems their son had been on a driving holiday in The States and had seen the jukebox in a pile of rubble that had once been a roadside diner. He approached the boss of the demolition company and by buying the beer that night they hauled it out for him. It was one of those bench shaped ones with straight pillars at each end and a visible mech. A local handy man crated it up for him and it was shipped home. When he opened it months later it was in a bad way having moved around inside the crate and crushed one of the pillars. The chrome was bad and the mech, drenched in sticky dried cola. His parents thought him mad as he spent a fortune on it including replacement pillars and other parts from Holland. One new 240 volt transformer later and it leapt into life but played everything slowly as our electrickery cycles at a different speed to the yanks. Instead of changing the drive motor for one at 50hz he machined the spindle to a different diameter to compensate. That's more than I could have coped with. Anyway no sooner had he done that than he got a phone call from a film company asking if they could hire it to appear in the background of a film they were making. They offered £1000 and promised to insure it, collect and deliver it. They kept it for 3 months, never used it and then he discovered the offer was for £1000 a week, which more than paid for it several times over. Why don't I have that luck?

My luck is different all together, not on that scale but more weird. A month or so later I followed an advert in a freebie mag for a mechanical 60's bandit 'needs looking at' in Leicestershire. Yes you've guessed it Bonanza Star not paying out properly. If my greed hadn't kicked in I'd have been spooked by this machine. This time not only did I reposition the fingers but I painted numbers on them (possibly to help me next time)? Then I sold it to someone at work and it went to live in Doncaster. In all I spent £200 repeatedly buying it and had received £550 back in total, not a bad profit from one machine, however haunted it was. I'm still optimistic that I haven't seen the last of it, unless you know differently and own one with numbers painted on the vertical payout fingers?

There are many more stories to tell and what I notice is that in this world of internet, eBay, emails etc. we might only be moments away from each other in hyper space but we don't visit or talk on the phone the way we used to. I miss that.

Cover Picture



Here's a close up of the four allwins and Mutomatic Electric Travelling Crane which can be seen in the picture on the front cover. The picture is of the Casino Café on Brighton seafront, not far from where my arcade is now. I've no idea when the picture was taken or why, but there must have been a reason for all those people to gather round to have their picture taken. It's just a shame that whoever was in charge of the camera seems to have been on the bottle before taking the picture! (Or perhaps he had one leg longer than the other).

Lineage ads. are free to subscribers and will run for two issues, unless you instruct me otherwise. Please ensure I have your ads. by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Remember to include your celephone number and the area where you live. Post or e-mail to the address on page 2

Wanted

Wiring diagram for a Bally 'Sir Prize' model 783, and Bally 'Reel Deal' model 816. Original or readable copy.

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Poz 07836 605032

For Sale

Jennings Governor, good chrome. £795 Plus another, chrome not so good. £600 Loads of Jubilee International parts, inc. double jackpots. Call for details. Aristocrat Shearline, on 1p play. £150 Pinball machine legs, £15 per set.

George 07960 346302 (Leicester)

Wanted

Hammer box front plate or full hammer box for Wonders Win and Place allwin. Other make would do, Whales etc.

Bill 01642 710834 (Middlesbrough)

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Mechanical Memories Magazine All back issues are now available

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Individual issues £1.50

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Post to: Jerry Chattenton, 10 Bedford Road, Dartford DA1 1SR

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N07 Payout Arrow €2.55

N08 Payout Bowl & Surround £15.55

N09 Payout Knob Shield £9.95

N10 Payout Knob &

Sleeve £11.95

N11 Ball Hammer £4.95

N12 Ball Cups 1-5 £9,99each 6-10 £7.99each 11+ £5.99each



N14 Allwin Track inner £19.00 middle £19.00 outer £23.50 set of 3 £47.00

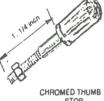
All prices include VAT @ 17.5% and P&P. Discount for quantity orders - please ring.



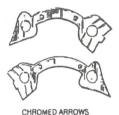
gallery, 6 x 1, 9/16

CHROMED TRIGGER

FRONT







Reversable.

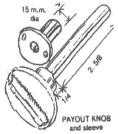
be filed bigger



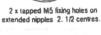






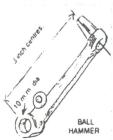








2.5 inch dia cup 2 x 0.25 inch fixing squares at 3.75 inch centres





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Illustrated:

A Delong Cowboy one-armed Bandit, Circa 1960, with Mills 'Bell-O-Matic' three-reel machine on 6d. play. Estimate: £1,200 - 1,600

This specialist auction also features a Rowe-Ami Continental jukebox. The Bonhams Knowle sale on 12 May, includes plenty of machines – please contact the specialists for further information.

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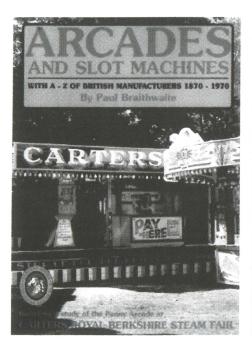
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